production of SSIs in the country during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 (projected) have been 10.9%, 12.3% and 12.6% respectively. The State-wise information is not maintained centrally.

(b) and (c) Promotion and development of MSMEs is primarily the responsibility of State Governments and Union Territory (UT) Administrations. To assist the States/UTs and supplement their efforts in this regard, the Central Government implements several schemes/ programmes for promotion and development of SSIs. These, *inter alia,* include, (i) facilitating availability of credit mainly through public sector banks/institutions, (ii) assistance for (a) technology upgradation, (b) marketing, (c) integrated infrastructural development, (d) comprehensive need-based development of clusters, and (iii) entrepreneurship development.

Further, the Government has enacted the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act, 2006 to facilitate the promotion and development of micro, small and medium enterprises and enhancement of their competitiveness. The Act has come into effect from 2nd October, 2006.

Besides, Government implements the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) and Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) specifically designed for creating self-employment opportunities among unemployed youth.

Gauge conversion of New Jalpaiguri-New Bongaigaon rail track

599. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that wild lives are facing dangers due to conversion of New Jalpaiguri-New Bongaigaon railway track;

(b) whether it is also a fact that an Expert Committee was formed to suggest measures to safeguard wildlife;

(c) if so, whether Government would agree to implement all recommendations of the Expert Committee; and

(d) if so, time-frame thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. All the recommendations had already been implemented.

(d) Does not arise.

Special Purpose Vehicle

600. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a bid to meet the growing demand of rolling stocks, the Railways have decided to form a special purpose vehicle with an authorized paid-up capital of Rs. 500 crore so that SPV will undertake resource mobilization, provide consultancy to the existing production units for technology upgrade and assist the joint venture in sourcing human resources; and